

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 7, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-21 were rejected. Claims 8 and 15 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claim 21 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. All amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,189,063 issued to David W. Rekeita et al. ("Rekeita") in view of U.S. Patent 6,519,671 issued to Keitaro Kondou et al. ("Kondou"). Claims 14 and 19 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekeita in view of Kondou, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,761,448 issued to Alan P. Adamson et al. ("Adamson").

Claims 1-7

The Office has asserted that Rekeita teaches at least two installed bootable devices and respective host bridges (detailed action, item 4). The Applicants respectfully traverse, and submit that Rekeita discloses a single host bridge, and not at least two host bridges, as recited generally in independent Claim 1.

The Office points to unit 18 (Rekeita, FIGURE 1) as the computer readable medium, recited generally in Claim 1, that stores identification data for each of the installed bootable devices. The Office notes that Rekeita does not explicitly teach that host bridge identification data is stored on the computer readable medium.

The Office then asserts that Kondou teaches a register for storing the equipment ID of a bridge (Kondou, FIGURE 2 and col. 12, ll. 54-58). The Applicants submit that the cited portions of Kondou do not teach or suggest storing the equipment ID of the bridge, but rather disclose storing an equipment ID of the bridge manager (FIGURE 2, reference number 31). Thus, Kondou, alone or in combination with Rekeita, does not teach or suggest storing identification data...including host bridge identification data.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Rekeita and Kondou does not teach or suggest all elements of recited independent Claim 1. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 1. In as much as Claims 2-7 depend from allowable independent Claim 1, Claims 2-7 are themselves allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claims 2-7.

Claims 8-14

In rejecting Claim 8, the Office asserts that the limitation "creating an identifier for each bootable device from the host bridge number and the identification data read from each bootable device" is met by configuration information comprising the subsystem ID and subsystem vendor ID of the PCI device. The Applicants respectfully submit that the subsystem ID and subsystem vendor ID are normally contained in registers of a PCI device (Rekeita, column 1, lines 60-64). Thus, subsystem ID and subsystem vendor ID are examples of identification data read from each bootable device. Since Claim 8 recites, generally, "creating an identifier for each bootable device from at least the host bridge number and the identification data read from each bootable device," and since the subsystem ID and subsystem vendor ID of a PCI device are normally read from registers on the PCI device, the Applicants submit that the subsystem ID and subsystem vendor ID do not teach or suggest creating an identifier from... the host bridge number and the identification data read from each bootable device.

Furthermore, Claim 8 has been amended to recite, "determining a host bridge number associated with each bus number of the computer system, "wherein the host bridge number is associated with one of a plurality of host bridges..." the Applicants submit that the combination of Rekeita and Kondou does not teach or suggest a plurality of host bridges.

For at least these reasons the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Rekeita and Kondou does not teach or suggest all elements of Applicants Claim 8. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 8. Furthermore, in as much as Claims 9-14 depend from allowable independent Claim 8, Claims 9-14 are themselves allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claims 9-14.

Claims 15-20

Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the host bridge number is associated with one of a plurality of host bridges. The Applicants submit that neither Rekeita nor Kondou teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a plurality of host bridges. Consequently, the combination of Rekeita and Kondou does not teach or suggest all elements of Applicants Claim 15. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 15. Furthermore, in as much as Claims 16-20 depend from allowable independent Claim 15, Claims 16-20 are themselves allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claim 16-20.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-20 as amended.

Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

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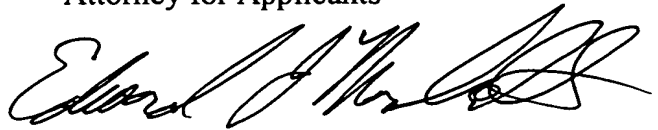
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If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Marshall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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